



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

2008



Families who lost their homes to Typhoon Reming in November 2006 are now participating in the rebuilding of more than 900 houses and up to five community centers through a USAID grant to the International Organization for Migration.

(Photo: IOM)

PHILIPPINES SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1946

Population: 88.6 million
(2007 census)

Annual income per person: \$1,170

Source: World Bank Development Indicators 2006

USAID IN THE PHILIPPINES

<http://philippines.usaid.gov>

OVERVIEW

The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. The country is known for its Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991 and Baguio City earthquake in 1990. More recently, major disasters affecting the Philippines included mudslides in Southern Leyte in February 2006 and the floods and mudslides brought by Typhoon Reming (International Code: Durian) in the Bicol Region in November 2006. In addition to natural hazards, sporadic armed conflict in Mindanao has displaced thousands of people.

USAID provides support for disaster preparedness and response by working in close partnership with the Government of the Philippines, the Red Cross, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and the U.S. military. Since 2000, USAID has provided the Philippines more than \$9 million to help communities more effectively respond to and prepare for natural and man-made disasters. In FY 2007, USAID provided \$5.8 million for disaster preparedness and reconstruction activities.

PROGRAMS

TYPHOON RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM IN BICOL

In the wake of the destruction caused by Typhoon Reming in November 2006, USAID responded immediately to supply blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, lamps, cooking wares, and iron sheeting to affected families. The assistance also helped finance the distribution of seeds to families whose crops were damaged, as well as a "Food and Cash for Work" program that supported local government efforts to clear roads and drainage infrastructure of debris.

USAID is currently providing \$5 million in funding for typhoon reconstruction activities for communities in the Bicol Region affected by Typhoon Reming. The funds support the grants with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Save the Children. Activities include: construction of permanent core shelters and community centers, small-scale livelihood training and inputs, provision of non-food items, and training on disaster preparedness.

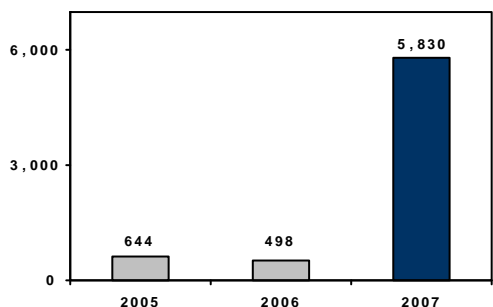


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HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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USAID Assistance
Humanitarian Assistance
(thousands of US \$)



Non-food items distribution for beneficiaries in Sta. Eulalia, Baao, Camarines Sur, displaced by Typhoon Reming.

(Photo: Luth Alejandrino, USAID/Philippines)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION ACTIVITIES

USAID is supporting Save the Children's relief efforts in response to sporadic armed conflict in Mindanao. USAID is providing emergency assistance, including water and sanitation services, to families displaced by conflict and building the capacity of local organizations to respond to conflict. In 2003, USAID supported the establishment of an emergency response network of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based groups, called the Mindanao Emergency Response Network (MERN). The MERN is an ongoing program to mitigate the impact of armed conflict by providing small grants to local NGOs and maintaining stockpiles of locally-procured relief items for emergencies.

USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) regional disaster preparedness programs support efforts in the Philippines to: reduce the impact of climate fluctuations; train medical first responders and hospital staff for mass casualties; provide search and rescue for collapsed structures; increase community preparedness for flooding; and provide technical assistance to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology on volcano disaster preparedness.